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The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

On behalf of River Springs, Empire Springs and Harbor Springs Charter Schools, we are writing in opposition of the E-rate Modernization Order phase down released on July 23, 2014. We believe the reduction of voice and data technology funding is discriminatory to 50% (over 3,000) of our students who are homeschooled and the teachers who support them.

River Springs, Empire Springs and Harbor Springs Charter Schools' missions are to empower students by fostering their innate curiosity, engage their parents, and promote optimum learning by collaboratively developing a personalized learning program for each student. Part of that personalized learning means that parents and their students may choose between a variety of programs including a hybrid in-classroom/at home program or, as thousands of our students choose, a comprehensive homeschool program. The E- Rate program is already discriminatory towards these homeschooled students because it costs our schools over \$50.00 per month/per homeschool student to provide them with the same internet service as our traditional classroom students. The Order takes that a step further by phasing down the voice services school wide until the benefit is gone completely. The financial burden this will create for schools will greatly hinder our ability to serve the students within the 5 counties in which we operate and reduce their options when it comes to their 21st century education.

Some of the truly disadvantaged students enrolled in our homeschool and academy programs are homeless. They live with friends or relatives, in foster care, in temporary housing (motels, shelters), and even in their cars. These students have no hope of getting WiFi in their current environments in order to complete their schoolwork. Disadvantaged students simply do not have the same choice and options in their education as wealthier families do, which is why we write to you today to reconsider the E-rate Modernization Order with the elimination of mobile data services and the phase down of all voice services. All students need reliable access to the internet in order to remain competitive and to progress towards their educational and career goals.

We appreciate the opportunity to communicate the views of our colleagues across the country. Should you have any questions, please contact Leilani Weiss at (951) 252-8861.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leilani Weiss', is written over a horizontal line.

Leilani Weiss
Financial Analyst, IT & Facilities